



General Assembly

January Session, 2009

Raised Bill No. 6565

LCO No. 3919

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Referred to Committee on Education

Introduced by:
(ED)

AN ACT CONCERNING HUMANE EDUCATION.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 10-16b of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2009*):

3 (a) In the public schools the program of instruction offered shall
4 include at least the following subject matter, as taught by legally
5 qualified teachers, the arts; career education; consumer education;
6 health and safety, including, but not limited to, human growth and
7 development, nutrition, first aid, disease prevention, community and
8 consumer health, physical, mental and emotional health, including
9 youth suicide prevention, substance abuse prevention, safety, which
10 may include the dangers of gang membership, and accident
11 prevention; language arts, including reading, writing, grammar,
12 speaking and spelling; mathematics; physical education; science; social
13 studies, including, but not limited to, citizenship, economics,
14 geography, government and history; and in addition, on at least the
15 secondary level, one or more foreign languages and vocational
16 education. For purposes of this subsection, language arts may include

17 American sign language or signed English, provided such subject
18 matter is taught by a qualified instructor under the supervision of a
19 teacher who holds a certificate issued by the State Board of Education.
20 For purposes of this subsection, the "arts" means any form of visual or
21 performing arts, which may include, but not be limited to, dance,
22 music, art and theatre.

23 (b) If a local or regional board of education requires its pupils to
24 take a course in a foreign language, the parent or guardian of a pupil
25 identified as deaf or hearing impaired may request in writing that such
26 pupil be exempted from such requirement and, if such a request is
27 made, such pupil shall be exempt from such requirement.

28 (c) Each local and regional board of education shall on September 1,
29 1982, and annually thereafter at such time and in such manner as the
30 Commissioner of Education shall request, attest to the State Board of
31 Education that such local or regional board of education offers at least
32 the program of instruction required pursuant to this section, and that
33 such program of instruction is planned, ongoing and systematic.

34 (d) The State Board of Education shall make available curriculum
35 materials and such other materials as may assist local and regional
36 boards of education in developing instructional programs pursuant to
37 this section. The State Board of Education, within available
38 appropriations and utilizing available resource materials, shall assist
39 and encourage local and regional boards of education to include: (1)
40 Holocaust education and awareness; (2) the historical events
41 surrounding the Great Famine in Ireland; (3) African-American
42 history; (4) Puerto Rican history; (5) Native American history; (6)
43 personal financial management; and (7) topics approved by the state
44 board upon the request of local or regional boards of education as part
45 of the program of instruction offered pursuant to subsection (a) of this
46 section.

47 (e) To the extent that funds become available from third party
48 donors, the State Board of Education shall consult with the Institute for

49 Humane Education, The Humane Society of the United States, the
50 American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and other
51 animal welfare organizations to develop a curriculum of humane
52 education to be distributed to local and regional boards of education.
53 Such curriculum shall include, but not be limited to, principles of
54 humane education, pet care, the humane treatment of animals and the
55 promotion of compassion, empathy and the respectful treatment of
56 other people, animals and the environment.

57 Sec. 2. Section 10-220a of the general statutes, as amended by section
58 1 of public act 08-107 and section 6 of public act 08-160, is repealed and
59 the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2009*):

60 (a) Each local or regional board of education shall provide an in-
61 service training program for its teachers, administrators and pupil
62 personnel who hold the initial educator, provisional educator or
63 professional educator certificate. Such program shall provide such
64 teachers, administrators and pupil personnel with information on (1)
65 the nature and the relationship of drugs, as defined in subdivision (17)
66 of section 21a-240, and alcohol to health and personality development,
67 and procedures for discouraging their abuse, (2) health and mental
68 health risk reduction education which includes, but need not be
69 limited to, the prevention of risk-taking behavior by children and the
70 relationship of such behavior to substance abuse, pregnancy, sexually
71 transmitted diseases, including HIV-infection and AIDS, as defined in
72 section 19a-581, violence, child abuse and youth suicide, (3) the growth
73 and development of exceptional children, including handicapped and
74 gifted and talented children and children who may require special
75 education, including, but not limited to, children with attention-deficit
76 hyperactivity disorder or learning disabilities, and methods for
77 identifying, planning for and working effectively with special needs
78 children in a regular classroom, (4) school violence prevention, conflict
79 resolution and prevention of bullying, as defined in subsection (a) of
80 section 10-222d, except that those boards of education that implement
81 an evidence-based model approach, consistent with subsection (d) of

82 section 10-145a, subsection (a) of section 10-220a, sections 10-222d, 10-
83 222g and 10-222h, subsection (g) of section 10-233c and sections 1 and 3
84 of public act 08-160*, shall not be required to provide in-service
85 training on prevention of bullying, (5) cardiopulmonary resuscitation
86 and other emergency life saving procedures, (6) computer and other
87 information technology as applied to student learning and classroom
88 instruction, communications and data management, (7) the teaching of
89 the language arts, reading and reading readiness for teachers in grades
90 kindergarten to three, inclusive, and (8) second language acquisition in
91 districts required to provide a program of bilingual education
92 pursuant to section 10-17f. The State Board of Education, within
93 available appropriations and utilizing available materials, shall assist
94 and encourage local and regional boards of education to include: (A)
95 Holocaust education and awareness; (B) the historical events
96 surrounding the Great Famine in Ireland; (C) African-American
97 history; (D) Puerto Rican history; (E) Native American history; (F)
98 personal financial management; and (G) topics approved by the state
99 board upon the request of local or regional boards of education as part
100 of in-service training programs pursuant to this subsection.

101 (b) Not later than a date prescribed by the commissioner, each local
102 and regional board of education shall develop, with the advice and
103 assistance of the teachers and administrators employed by such
104 boards, including representatives of the exclusive bargaining
105 representative of such teachers and administrators chosen pursuant to
106 section 10-153b, and such other resources as the board deems
107 appropriate, a comprehensive professional development plan, to be
108 implemented not later than the school year 1994-1995. Such plan shall
109 be directly related to the educational goals prepared by the local or
110 regional board of education pursuant to subsection (b) of section 10-
111 220, and shall provide for the ongoing and systematic assessment and
112 improvement of both teacher evaluation and professional
113 development of the professional staff members of each such board,
114 including personnel management and evaluation training or
115 experience for administrators, shall be related to regular and special

116 student needs and may include provisions concerning career
117 incentives and parent involvement. The State Board of Education shall
118 develop guidelines to assist local and regional boards of education in
119 determining the objectives of the plans and in coordinating staff
120 development activities with student needs and school programs.

121 (c) The Department of Education, in cooperation with one or more
122 regional educational service centers, is authorized to provide institutes
123 annually for Connecticut educators. Such institutes shall serve as
124 model programs of professional development and shall be taught by
125 exemplary Connecticut teachers and administrators and by other
126 qualified individuals as selected by the Department of Education. The
127 Department of Education shall charge fees for attending such institutes
128 provided such fees shall be based on the actual cost of such institutes.

129 (d) The Department of Education may fund, within available
130 appropriations, in cooperation with one or more regional educational
131 service centers: (1) A cooperating teacher program to train Connecticut
132 public school teachers and certified teachers at private special
133 education facilities approved by the Commissioner of Education and at
134 other facilities designated by the commissioner, who participate in the
135 supervision, training and evaluation of student teachers; and (2)
136 institutes to provide continuing education for Connecticut public
137 school educators and cooperating teachers, including institutes to
138 provide continuing education for Connecticut public school educators
139 offered in cooperation with the Connecticut Humanities Council.
140 Funds available under this subsection shall be paid directly to school
141 districts for the provision of substitute teachers when cooperating
142 teachers are released from regular classroom responsibilities and for
143 the provision of professional development activities for cooperating
144 and student teachers. The cooperating teacher program shall operate in
145 accordance with regulations adopted by the State Board of Education
146 in accordance with chapter 54, except in cases of placement in other
147 countries pursuant to written cooperative agreements between
148 Connecticut institutions of higher education and institutions of higher

149 education in other countries. A Connecticut institution may enter such
150 an agreement only if the State Board of Education and Board of
151 Governors of Higher Education have jointly approved the institution's
152 teacher preparation program to enter into such agreements. Student
153 teachers shall be placed with trained cooperating teachers.
154 Cooperating teachers who are Connecticut public school teachers shall
155 be selected by local and regional boards of education. Cooperating
156 teachers at such private special education and other designated
157 facilities shall be selected by the authority responsible for the operation
158 of such facilities. If a board of education is unable to identify a
159 sufficient number of individuals to serve in such positions, the
160 commissioner may select qualified persons who are not employed by
161 the board of education to serve in such positions. Such regulations
162 shall require primary consideration of teachers' classroom experience
163 and recognized success as educators. The provisions of sections 10-
164 153a to 10-153n, inclusive, shall not be applicable to the selection,
165 placement and compensation of persons participating in the
166 cooperating teacher program pursuant to the provisions of this section
167 and to the hours and duties of such persons. The State Board of
168 Education shall protect and save harmless, in accordance with the
169 provisions of section 10-235, any cooperating teacher while serving in
170 such capacity.

171 (e) To the extent that funds become available from third party
172 donors, the State Board of Education shall assist and encourage local
173 and regional boards of education to include the teaching of the
174 principles of humane education, as described in subsection (e) of
175 section 10-16b, as amended by this act, as part of its in-service training
176 program pursuant to this section.

177 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2009*) No local or regional school
178 district shall require students raising a conscientious objection to
179 perform experiments or dissections on any animal as part of classroom
180 instruction.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2009</i>	10-16b
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2009</i>	10-220a
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2009</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To encourage the inclusion of principles of humane education in the curriculum of public schools.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]